

FACTORS WHICH PLACE CHILDREN “AT RISK”

The Michigan State Board of Education adopted a report *Children at Risk: Examination of Causes and Exploration of Alternatives* at its April 5, 1988 meeting. This report highlighted factors which place children “at risk” of becoming educationally disadvantaged and who may have extraordinary need of special assistance. This list is by no means exhaustive, but is offered to assist in defining, identifying and selecting eligible participants for the Michigan Department of Education, Office of School Excellence /Early Childhood and Parenting Programs for four-year-olds. The list of “risk” factors includes:

RISK FACTORS	
1.	LOW BIRTH WEIGHT
2.	DEVELOPMENTALLY IMMATURE*
3.	PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL ABUSE AND NEGLECT
4.	NUTRITIONALLY DEFICIENT
5.	LONG-TERM OR CHRONIC ILLNESS
6.	DIAGNOSED HANDICAPPING CONDITION (main streamed)
7.	LACK OF A STABLE SUPPORT SYSTEM OF RESIDENCE
8.	DESTRUCTIVE OR VIOLENT TEMPERAMENT
9.	SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR ADDICTION
10.	LANGUAGE DEFICIENCY OR IMMATURITY
11.	NON-ENGLISH OR LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING HOUSEHOLD
12.	FAMILY HISTORY OF LOW SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT OR DROPOUT
13.	FAMILY HISTORY OF DELINQUENCY
14.	FAMILY HISTORY OF DIAGNOSED FAMILY PROBLEMS
15.	LOW PARENT/SIBLING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OR ILLITERACY
16.	SINGLE PARENT
17.	UNEMPLOYED PARENT/PARENTS
18.	LOW FAMILY INCOME
19.	FAMILY DENSITY
20.	PARENTAL/SIBLING LOSS BY DEATH OR PARENTAL LOSS BY DIVORCE
21.	TEENAGE PARENT
22.	CHRONICALLY ILL PARENT/SIBLING (physical, mental or emotional)
23.	INCARCERATED PARENT
24.	HOUSING IN RURAL OR SEGREGATED AREA
25.	OTHER – A child may be eligible for services in the MSRP Program with documentation of one risk factor and the informed clinical opinion of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals and parent(s)/primary caregiver(s) that the child has a factor placing him or her at risk of school failure not included in the “Children At Risk” report. This can only apply to 10 percent of the enrolled children.

* This risk factor must be used in conjunction with another factor if a standardized test score is being used as the sole factor in meeting Risk Factor #2.